

**FAROE ISLANDS
PROGRESS REPORT ON MARINE MAMMALS 2014**

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report summarises research on cetaceans and pinnipeds conducted in the Faroe Islands in 2014. Research has been conducted by the Museum of Natural History and the Environment Agency.

II. RESEARCH BY SPECIES 2014

II.a Species/Stocks studied

- Gray seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) – biating statistics
- Pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) – stranded animals
- Bottlenose whale (*Hyperoodon ampullatus*) – stranded animals

II.b Field work

In 2014, a total of 47 “full samples” were collected from **pilot whales** by the Natural History Museum, from 2 drives – Fuglafjarður on 18 May (13 samples) and Sandur on 30 September (34). This is a continuation of a “small-scale” sampling programme, with the future plan to complement it with a more comprehensive monitoring programme, one priority being age determination of all individuals. A “full sample” refers to recording/sampling total length, weight (when possible), sex, teeth, reproductive organs and stomach as well as muscle, blubber, kidney and liver tissues. Footwear are sampled when present.

The Environment Agency did not collect samples of **pilot whales** in 2014.

On 28 September 2014, five **bottlenose whales** stranded in Hvallta, Suðuroy. Samples from stomachs, reproductive organs and lower jaws were delivered to the Museum of Natural History for examinations.

II.c Laboratory work

The biological material collected from **pilot whales** in 2014 has been prepared ready for finalizing examinations of age, diet and reproduction.

In 2014, the activities of the Environment Agency in relation to **pilot whales** were limited to that of preparing samples from previous years for analysis, as no new samples were taken in 2014. The samples selected for analyses in 2014 are shown in Table 1 and Table 2.